AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of formal drawings replace the Figures, 12, 13 and 14 in the application. In FIG. 12, the reference characters 20 and 40 have been added. In FIG. 13, the reference character 101 has been added and the overhang has been corrected to be referenced by the correct reference character 104 to be consistent with the specification. In FIG. 14, the lead line for reference character 115 has been amended to correctly point to the side section of the flange and the reference characters 20 and 101 have been added. Applicants submit that no new matter was added by these amendments.

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed January 14, 2005. By this paper, claims 1 and 8 are amended, claims 9-14 are withdrawn, and claims 15-17 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-8 and 15-17 are pending upon entry of this amendment.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group 1, claims 1-8.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants submit herewith an amendment to the specification to correct the informalities identified by the examiner in Paragraph 9 of the Office Action. Applicants submit that no new matter was added by these amendments.

Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants submit herewith the attached replacement sheets of drawings to correct deficiencies in the drawings identified by the Examiner in Paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Office Action. The attached sheets of formal drawings replace the Figures, 12, 13 and 14 in the application. In FIG. 12, the reference characters 20 and 40 have been added. In FIG. 13, the reference character 101 has been added and the overhang has been corrected to be referenced by the correct reference character 104 to be consistent with the specification. In FIG. 14, the lead line for reference character 115 has been amended to correctly point to the side section of the flange and the reference characters 20 and 101 have been added. Applicants submit that no new matter was added by these amendments.

Response to Rejection of Claims 1-8

Claim 1 is directed to an improved method of mounting a headlight fixture in a vehicle hood. The vehicle hood is molded with an open cavity defined by an overhang and an under-hang in the vehicle hood. Importantly, the molded vehicle hood further includes a headlight-mounting flange member extending substantially vertically downward from an inside surface of

the vehicle hood. As explained in the specification, the vertical headlight-mounting flange can be molded as part of the vehicle hood without requiring a three-piece mold. A semi-rigid reflective material having at least a first hole for the headlight is then installed in the cavity to form the curved reflective wall for the cavity. More particularly, claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method comprising, *inter alia*:

> folding the reflective material such that a first end of the reflective material attaches to the headlight-mounting flange and an opposite end of the reflective material attaches to the under-hang of the vehicle hood to form a curved surface positioned to reflect light from the at least first headlight out of the open cavity.

Claim 1 in the application stands rejected as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Claim 1, as amended, is novel and patentable over the references of record, and particularly over the AAPA, because the cited art does not show or suggest molding the vehicle hood with the head-light mounting flange and folding the reflective material as required by claim 1.

The AAPA also discloses a method of mounting a headlight fixture in the hood of a vehicle. However, as pointed out in Applicants' specification, this prior art method has disadvantages that are overcome by the new method disclosed by the Applicants and these changes result in the patentable subject matter. One major disadvantage in making the vehicle hood according to the prior art method described in the AAPA is that in addition to the upper and lower molds, a third mold component or tool is also required in order to form the parabolic shape 12 (seen best in FIGS. 2-3) at the front of the hood necessary for the headlight compartment. The use of a three-component mold system is essential for this type of part because the formation of the parabolic shaped cavity would prevent the removal of the upper and lower mold pieces in a two-component system. (See Specification, page 5, lines 3-19). The AAPA also discloses a method of attaching the reflecting material into the parabolic shaped cavity at the front of the hood. The purpose of the reflective material is to increase the illumination of the headlights. This material is a flexible material having one side with a shiny reflecting material and a second side with an adhesive material used to adhere the reflecting material to the parabola shape cavity at the front of the hood.

The method described in claim 1 has a vertical headlight mounting flange that is neither described nor suggested in the AAPA. Instead, the headlight in the AAPA method is mounted to the wall that extends from the top inside surface of the hood to the front of the hood. In fact, the AAPA teaches away from the necessity of such a headlight mounting flange. This wall clearly is not a flange, and moreover is not vertical, and these difference are significant because it is this difference that enables the Applicants to use a two-piece mold rather than a three-piece mold to form the headlight mounting component.

In paragraph 11, the Examiner states the AAPA admits on page 6, line 6-13 of the application that flange members juxtaposed in the open cavity are known in the art. Applicants strongly disagree with this characterization of Applicants' specification. The specification merely states that a means for attaching a headlight is known, such as by locking the headlight socket into a headlight receiving hole with tabs. Nowhere does the specification suggest that mounting a headlight on a flange member extending from the vehicle hood into the cavity known or suggested by the prior art.

Furthermore, the AAPA does not teach or suggest folding the semi-rigid reflective material such that a first end of the reflective material attaches to the headlight-mounting flange and an opposite end of the reflective material attaches to the under-hang of the vehicle hood to form a curved surface positioned to reflect light from the at least first headlight out of the open cavity. The AAPA teaches attaching a reflective material onto the wall that forms the parabolic cavity with an adhesive. Nowhere does this suggest folding a semi-rigid reflective material and attaching it to the headlight-mounting flange and to the under-hang of the hood to form the curved surface. In the AAPA, the curved surface is formed in the molding process, not by folding a semi-rigid material and attaching it to the unconnected ends of the flange and the under-hang at the front of the hood.

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by or made obvious by the AAPA and favorable consideration of claim 1 is respectfully requested. Independent claim 8 contains limitations similar to those of claim 1 and is likewise patentable over the cited art. Claims 2-7, depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, are submitted as patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims directed to subjected matter that Applicants believe is patentable over the cited art. Prompt allowance of the new claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant submits that the claims presented herein are patentably distinguishable from the art applied and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner determine that anything else is desirable to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully Submitted,
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